Rubber World

The technical service magazine for the rubber industry

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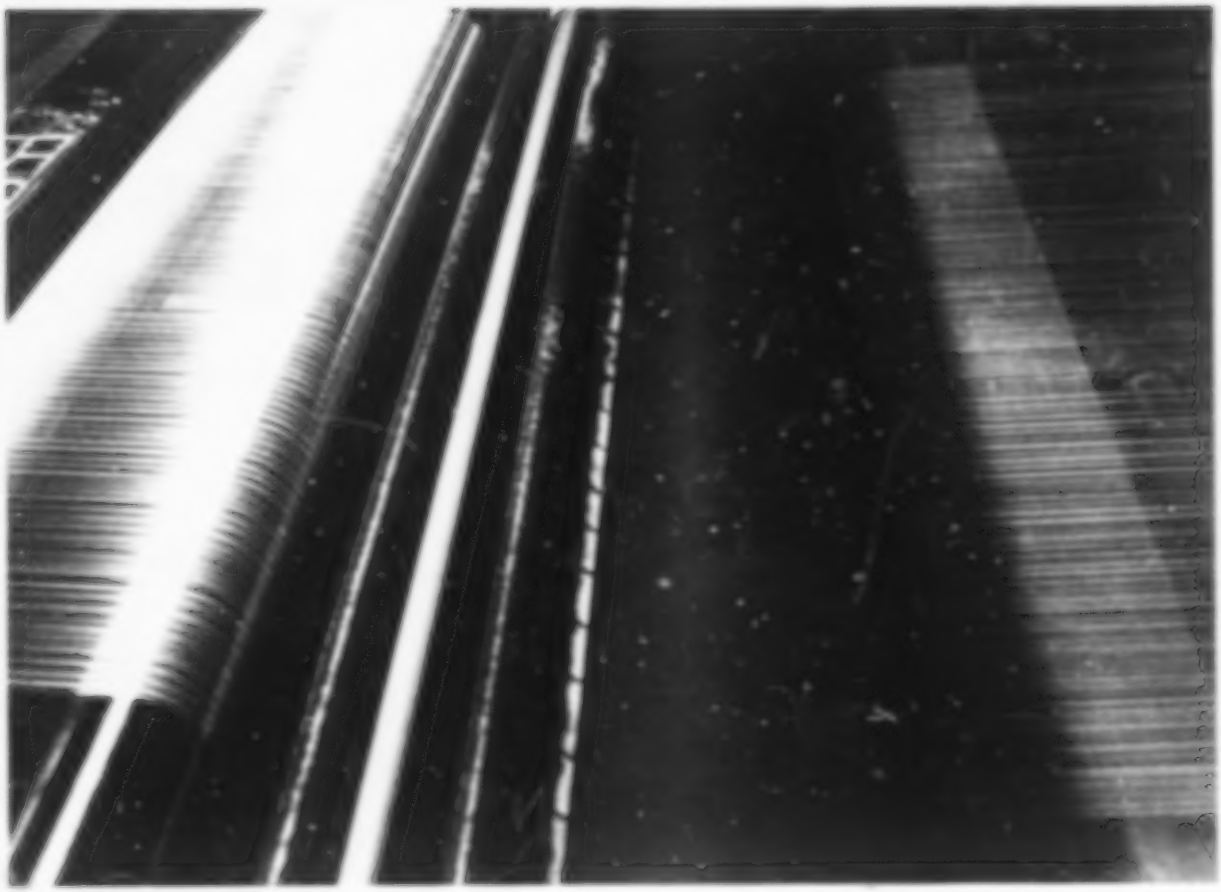
Fibers & fabrics

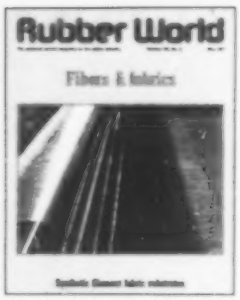


Synthetic filament fabric substrates

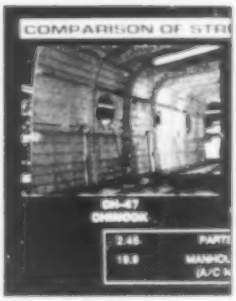
The role of reinforcing fibers in composites

Contents

Vol. 192, No. 2/May 1985



Synthetic filament fabric substrates p. 16



Reinforcing fibers in composites p. 27

Bonding to polyolefinic thermoplastic elastomers p. 38

6 Business Briefs
Acquisitions, expansions, contracts, licenses, financial statements, markets, news

12 Tech Service: Alcryn — an interesting new entry
by Jon Menough, contributing technical services editor. This new family of melt processable rubbers possesses rubber-like qualities as well as thermoplastic, and can be processed on typical rubber machinery

16 Synthetic filament fabric substrates
by David Tarlton and Jack Leach, Burlington Industries, Inc. Author examines properties of fabric substrates and what the buyer should know to make his needs known to the vendor

27 The role of reinforcing fibers in composites
by Paul N. Lagasse, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. Advanced composites represent one of the growth segments in business and the author looks at these polymer matrices reinforced with specific fibers

29 Crosslinking of epichlorohydrin elastomers
by Helfried Ehrend, Rhein-Chemie Mobay Chemical Corporation. Epichlorohydrins require special vulcanization systems which have to be improved, according to the author, who offers a method to possibly solve existing processing problems

38 Bonding to polyolefinic thermoplastic elastomers
by J.P. Vanderkooi and L.A. Goettler, Monsanto Polymer Products Co. New adhesive technology should enable olefinic thermoplastic vulcanizates to broaden market penetration in areas employing conventional crosslinked rubber

43 Patent news
edited by Bob Samples, Akron Rubber Development

49 Technical Focus — New products for the manufacturing plant
by David Given, technical editor

51 Techno Mart
New equipment, instruments, CAD/CAM, products and materials

Departments

4	Editorial	47	Calendar	62	Literature
44	Meetings	60	Jobs & People	64	Ad Index

Cover

Cover photo courtesy of Burlington Industries, Inc.

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Blasius Industries reported net earnings of $304,000 on net sales of $10.8 million for the third quarter.

Eagle-Picher Industries reported net income for the first quarter of $4.5 million on sales of $154.7 million.

GenCorp announced it had net earnings for the first quarter of 1985 of $1 million on sales of $626 million.

Martin Marietta reported net earnings of $191.7 million on sales of $3.9 billion for 1984.

Mobay Chemical announced net income for 1984 totaled $73.1 million on net sales of $1.55 billion.

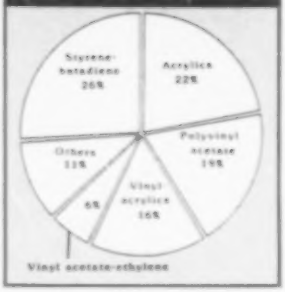
NL Industries reported net income for 1984 of $141.1 million on sales of $1.3 billion.

Rubbermaid announced record net earnings of $11.7 million on record sales of $142 million for the first quarter.

Markets, news

Sales of synthetic latex polymers in the United States during 1984 reached nearly 2.9 billion dry lb. valued at more than $2.1 billion, according to figures from C.H. Kline & Co. The five major latex polymer types — styrene-butadiene, acrylics, vinyl acetate homopolymer, vinyl-acrylics, and vinyl acetate-ethylene — together accounted for almost 89% of the total pounds and over 85% of the dollar value. More than twelve additional minor products made up the balance of volume consumed.

Sales of latex polymers by product 1984 percent of total pounds



Paint and coatings production leads all areas of latex consumption, accounting for over 23% of domestic consumption in 1984. The adhesive, paper, carpet, textile, and nonwoven industries follow in declining order, and together represent approximately 60% of all consumption. At least 14 other consuming industries account for the remaining volume.

Overall growth for latex polymers is projected to average 3% a year through 1988 when demand will reach over 3.2 billion dry pounds. The most rapidly growing major latices will include vinyl acetate-ethylenes, styrene-acrylics, and acrylics. Products projected to grow at below average rates include styrene-butadiene, polyvinyl acetate, and vinyl-acrylic latices.

Major consuming industries where demand is projected to rise at above average rates include printing inks, adhesives, textiles, and caulks and sealants. Slower growth will be seen in carpet, paint and coatings, paper, and nonwovens. The only industry where latex consumption is expected to decline is leather.

Preliminary estimates from the International Rubber Study Group indicate that world rubber consumption in 1984 rose by 915,000 tons to 13.19 million, up 7.5% from 1983 and exceeding the 1979 record of 13.06 million. Synthetic rubber totalled 8.92 million tons and natural rubber 4.27 million tons. Consumption or NR was at the highest level ever, but that of synthetic rubber fell short of its 1979 record.

Natural rubber production rose 310,000 tons, 7.7%, to 4.33 million tons with Indonesia accounting for about two thirds of the rise. All producers with the exceptions of Malaysia, Thailand and Nigeria exceeded 1983 totals. Synthetic rubber production increased by 715,000 tons, 8.6%, with major contributors such as Asia up 17%, North America 12%, and the EEC 9%.

Estimates indicate that several countries may be expected to have raised consumption by 10% or more including: the U.S., 14%; Taiwan, 14%; China, 13%; Canada, 12%; France, 12%; and Brazil, 10%. South Korea led other countries with a rise of 18% to 306,000 tons. The UK and Germany were up 9% each, and Japan and Australia were up 8% each.

RMA tire shipments & production report through January 1985 (figures in thousands of units)

Passenger Tires	1985	1984	% Change
Shipments			
Original Equipment	4,920	4,151	+18.53
Radial	4,116	3,488	+18.00
Replacement	11,208	10,709	+4.66
Radial	9,238	8,169	+13.09
Export	554	522	+6.13
Radial	446	355	+25.63
Total	16,682	15,382	+8.45
Radial	13,800	12,012	+14.89
Production	14,971	13,815	+8.37
Radial	11,807	10,062	+17.34
Truck & Bus Tires			
Shipments			
Original Equipment	619	604	+2.48
Radial	390	317	+23.03
Replacement	2,540	2,409	+5.44
Radial	1,041	862	+20.77
Export	124	114	+8.77
Radial	59	43	+37.21
Total	3,283	3,127	+4.99
Radial	1,490	1,222	+21.93
Production	3,410	2,934	+16.22
Radial	1,413	1,062	+33.05

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